

Vital Statistics
2018

Live births increased but natural growth remained negative

In 2018, there were 87,020 live births of mothers residing in Portugal, which represents an increase of 1.0% (+866 children), when compared to the previous year. Of total live births, 55.9% were born "outside marriage", e.g., children of parents not legally married to each other.

There were 113,000 deaths of residents in national territory, an increase of 3.0% (+3,242 deaths) when compared to 2017. Of total deaths, 56,694 were of men and 56,306 were of women; 85.5% of deaths were of persons aged 65 and over.

Portugal thus had, for the tenth consecutive year, a negative natural growth (-25,980).

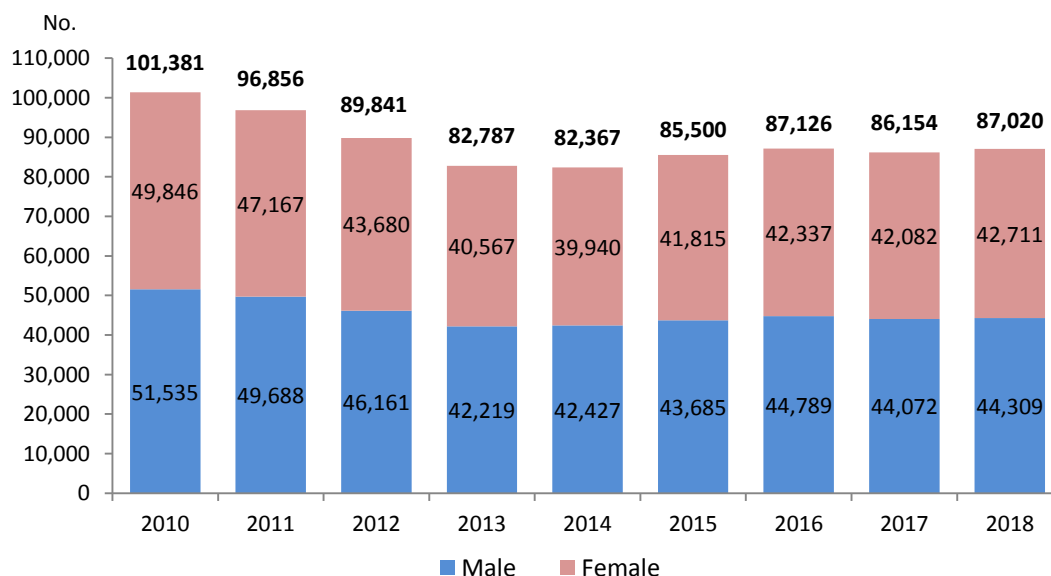
There were 281 deaths of children under 1 year of age (+52 than in 2017), close to the value recorded in 2016.

34,637 marriages were celebrated, which represent an increase of 3.0% when compared to the previous year (+1,003 marriages). In more than half of total marriages (59.8%) the spouses already cohabitated. 67.1% of marriages were civil ceremonies and 32.5% were Catholic.

Number of live births increased 1.0%

In 2018, there were 87,020 live births of mothers residing in Portugal, an increase of 1.0% when compared to 2017 (86,154).

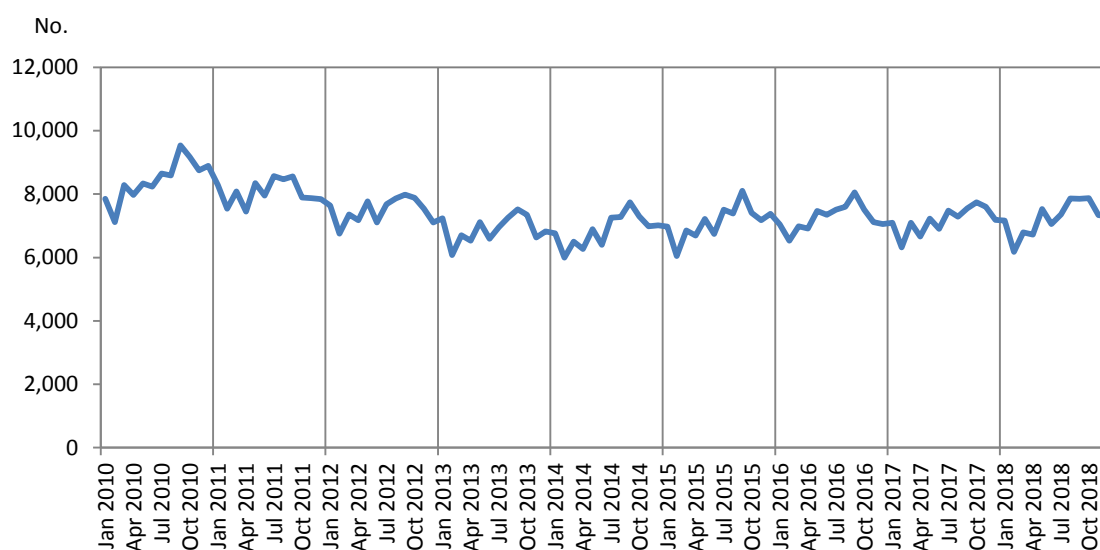
Live births by sex (No.), Portugal, 2010-2018



The sex ratio at birth was 104, corresponding to 44,309 males and 42,711 females.

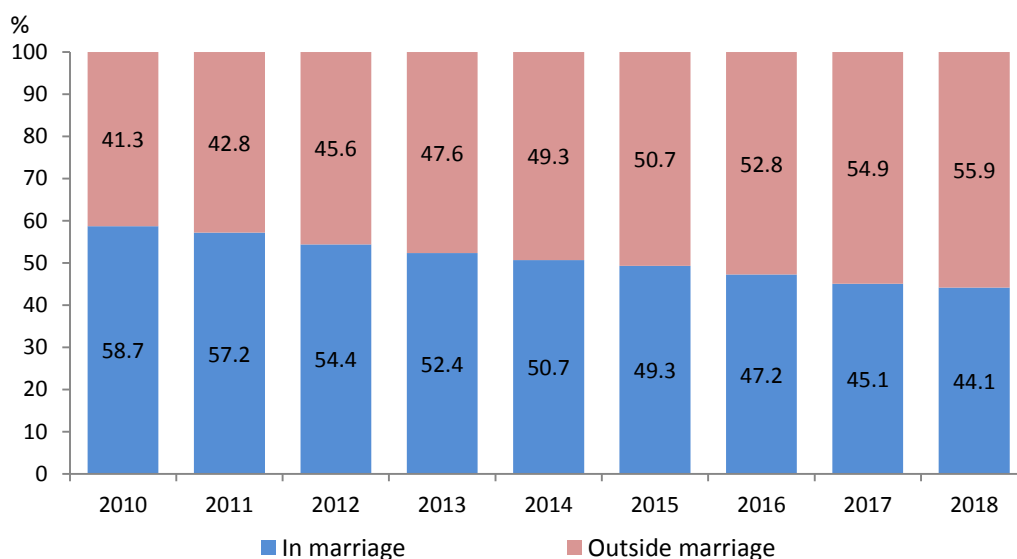
In 2018, similarly to 2017, October registered the highest number of births. Between 2010 and 2016, the highest number of births was always in September (except for 2011, July being the month with the highest number of births). On the other hand, the month with the lowest number of births was always February (except for 2011, when it was April).

Live births by month of birth (No.), Portugal, January 2010 to December 2018



In 2018, the share of live births “outside marriage”, e.g., children of parents not legally married to each other, rose to 55.9% (54.9% in 2017 and 41.3% in 2010), corresponding, for the fourth consecutive year, to more than half of total live births.

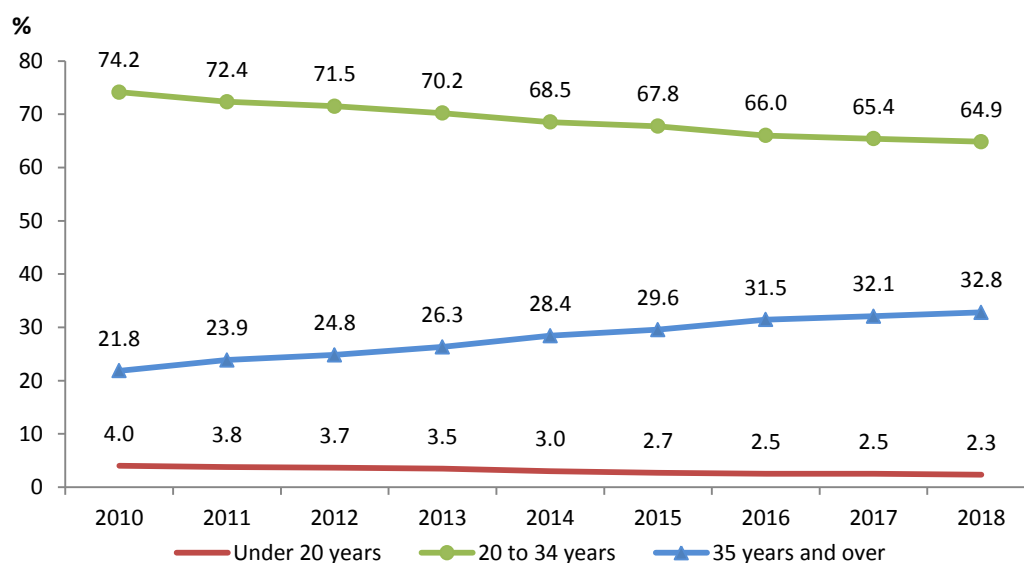
Live births by legitimacy status (%), Portugal, 2010-2018



In 2018, from total births, 64.9% were of mothers aged 20 to 34; 32.8% were of mothers aged 35 and over, and 2.3% were of mothers under 20 years.

From 2010 to 2018, the share of live births of mothers under 20 years and mothers aged 20 to 34 dropped, respectively, by 1.7 and 9.3 percentage points (pp). By contrast, the share of live births of mothers aged 35 and over increased 11.0 pp.

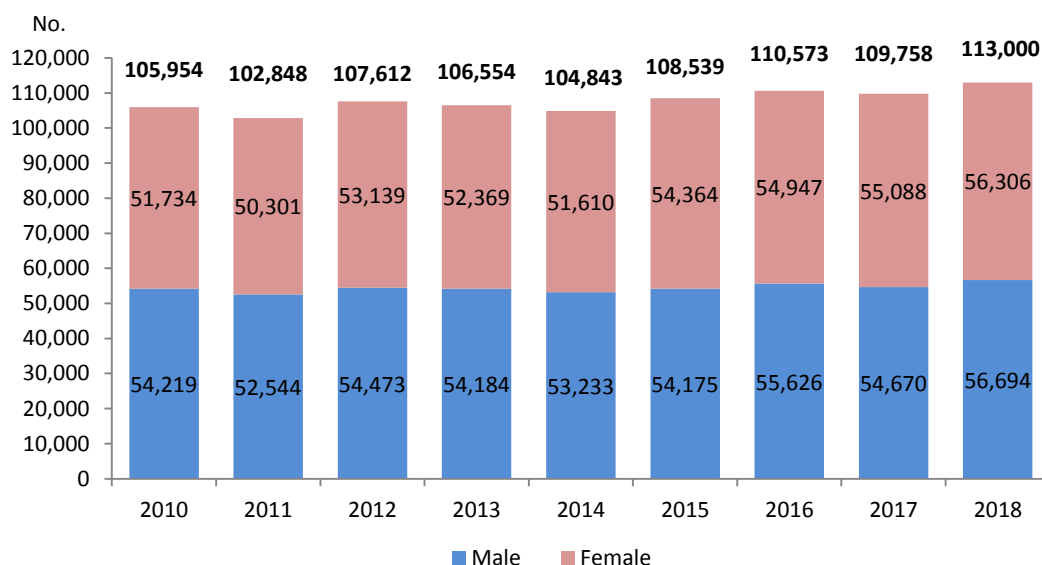
Live births by age of the mother (%), Portugal, 2010-2018



Number of deaths increased 3.0%

In 2018, there were 113,000 deaths of residents in Portugal, accounting for an increase of 3.0% of mortality vis-à-vis 2017 (109,758). Of total deaths in 2018, 56,694 were of men and 56,306 were of women.

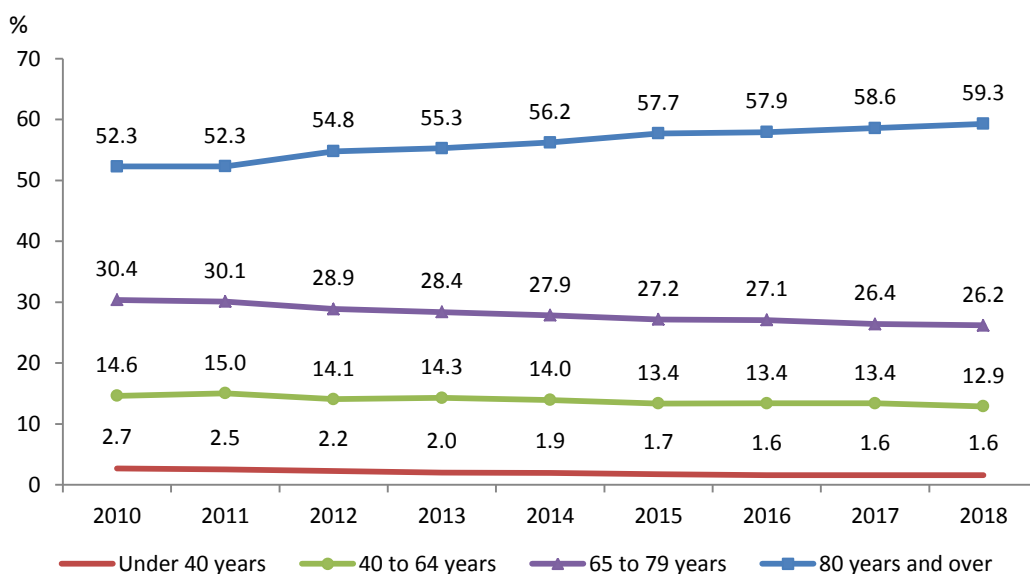
Deaths by sex (No.), Portugal, 2010-2018



Most deaths occurred at old ages: of total deaths of residents in 2018, 85.5% were of persons aged 65 and over; also, more than half (59.3%) of total were of persons aged 80 and over.

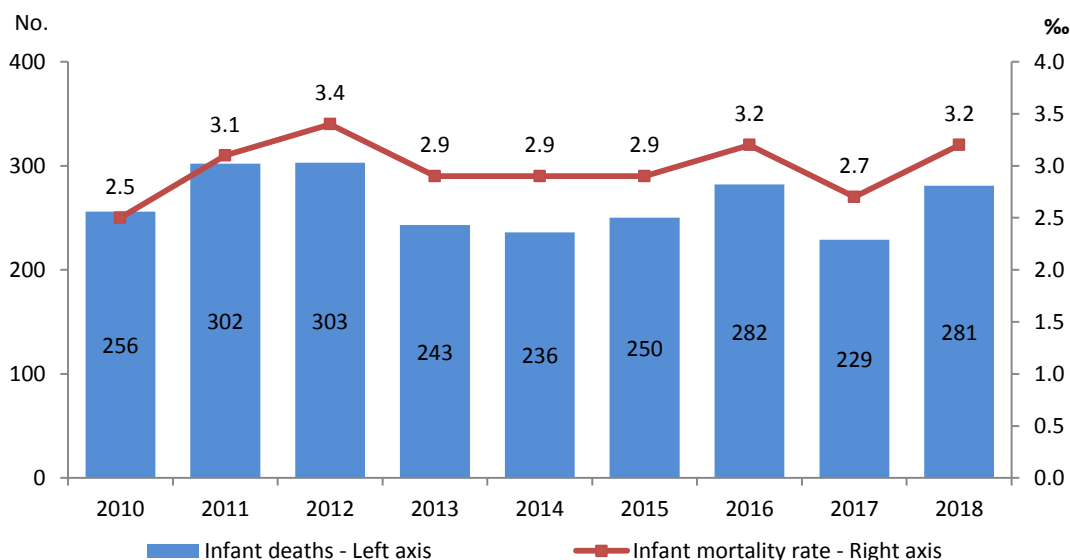
Between 2010 and 2018, the share of deaths of persons aged under 65 and of persons aged 65 to 79 reduced, respectively, by 2.8 and 4.2 pp. On the other hand, the share of deaths of persons aged 80 and over increased 7.0 pp.

Deaths by age (%), Portugal, 2010-2018



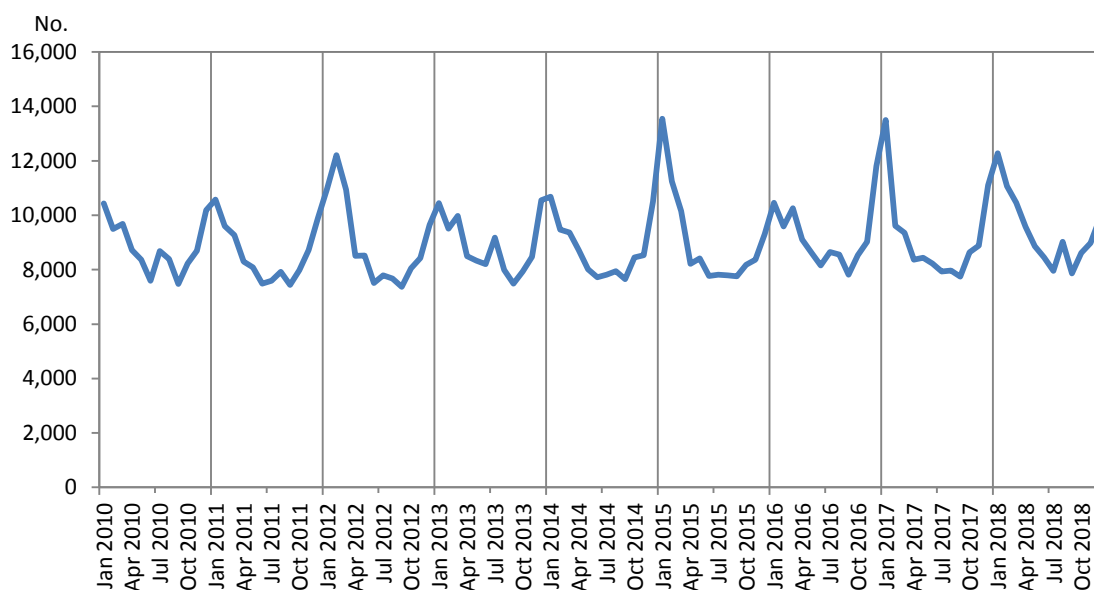
In 2018, there were 281 deaths of children under 1 year of age (+52 than in 2017), close to the value recorded in 2016 (282 infant deaths). The infant mortality rate was 3.2 deaths per 1,000 live births (2.7 in 2017), the same figure as in 2016. The lowest infant mortality rate was registered in 2010, with 2.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Infant deaths (No.) and Infant mortality Rate (‰), Portugal, 2010-2018



Mortality shows a seasonal pattern, with higher values in winter months and lower in spring and summer months. In 2018, similarly to 2017, January registered the highest number of deaths. On the other hand, September was always the month with the lowest number of deaths.

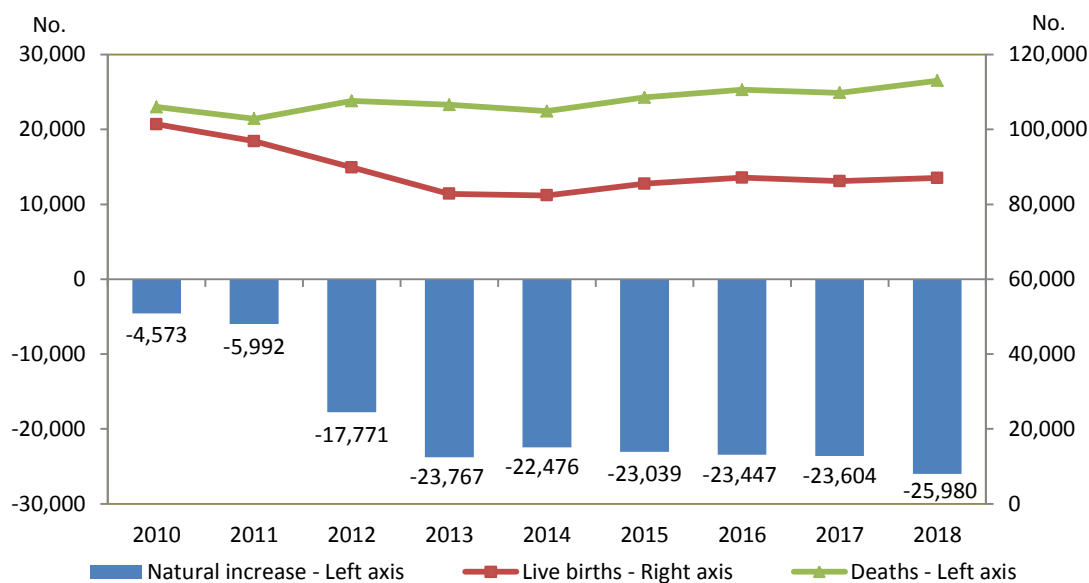
Deaths by month of death (No.), Portugal, January 2010 to December 2018



Natural growth remained negative

In 2018, the combined values of live births and deaths resulted, for the tenth consecutive year, in a negative natural growth, reaching -25,980.

Live births, deaths and natural increase¹ (No.), Portugal, 2010-2018



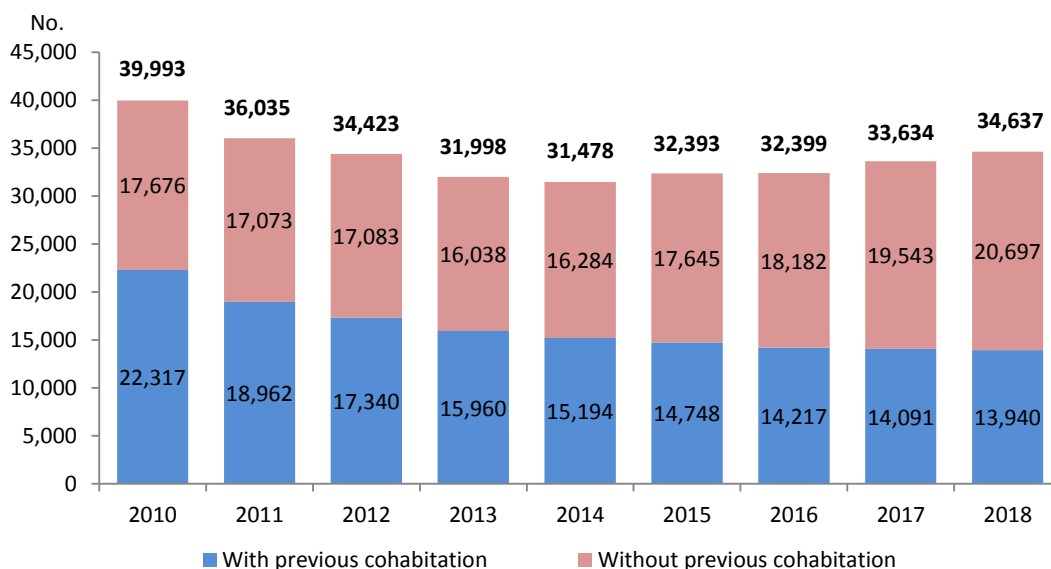
Number of marriages increased 3.0%

In 2018, 34,637 marriages were celebrated in Portugal, which results from an increase of 3.0% when compared with the previous year (+1,003 marriages from 2017). Since 2015, the number of marriages has been increasing. Of total marriages celebrated in 2018, 34,030 were opposite-sex marriages and 607 were same-sex marriages (523 in 2017): 342 between men and 265 between women (282 and 241, respectively, in 2017).

In more than half of marriages held in 2018, spouses already cohabitated (20,697 marriages). This situation has been increasing considerably in the past few years, from 44.2% in 2010 to 59.8% in 2018.

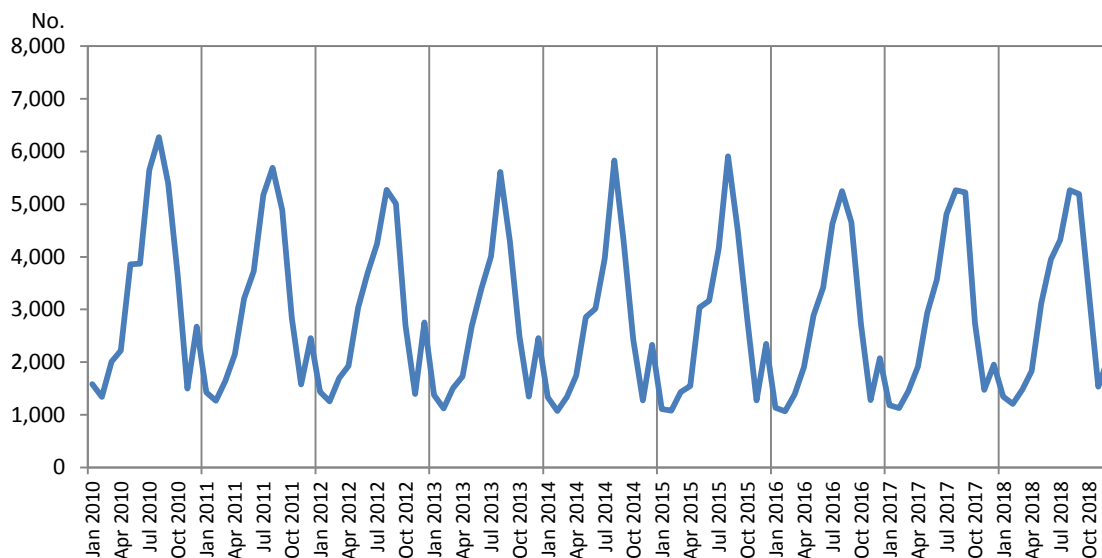
¹ In this press release natural increase figures refer to updated deaths figures. In this sense they can present small differences when compared with data disseminated in previous releases.

Marriages, with or without previous cohabitation (No.), Portugal, 2010-2018



In 2018, 54.1% of marriages (18,724) were held in the summer months (between June and September), August being the month with the highest value (5,265). Between 2010 and 2017, August has always recorded the highest number of marriages. On the other hand, February has recorded the lowest number.

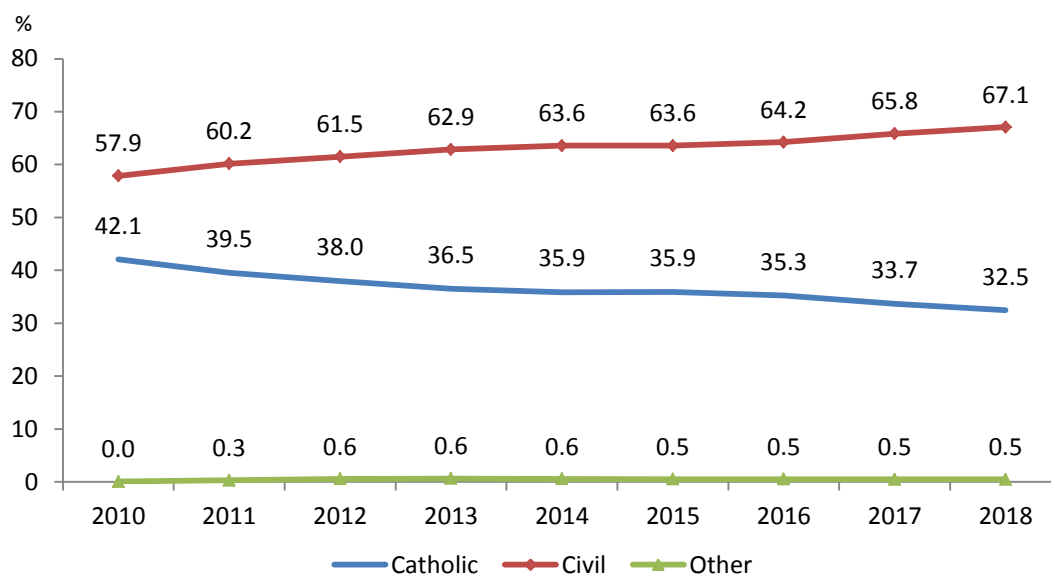
Marriages by month of marriage (No.), Portugal, January 2010 to December 2018



Of total opposite-sex marriages celebrated, 32.5% (11,043) were Catholic marriages, 67.1% (22,826) were only civil marriages, and 0.5% (161) were celebrated in other religious rites².

The share of civil marriages increased 1.3 pp from 2017 and 9.2 pp from 2010. The share of Catholic marriages decreased 1.2 pp from 2017 and 9.6 p.p. from 2010.

Marriages between persons of opposite sex, by type of marriage (%), Portugal, 2010-2018

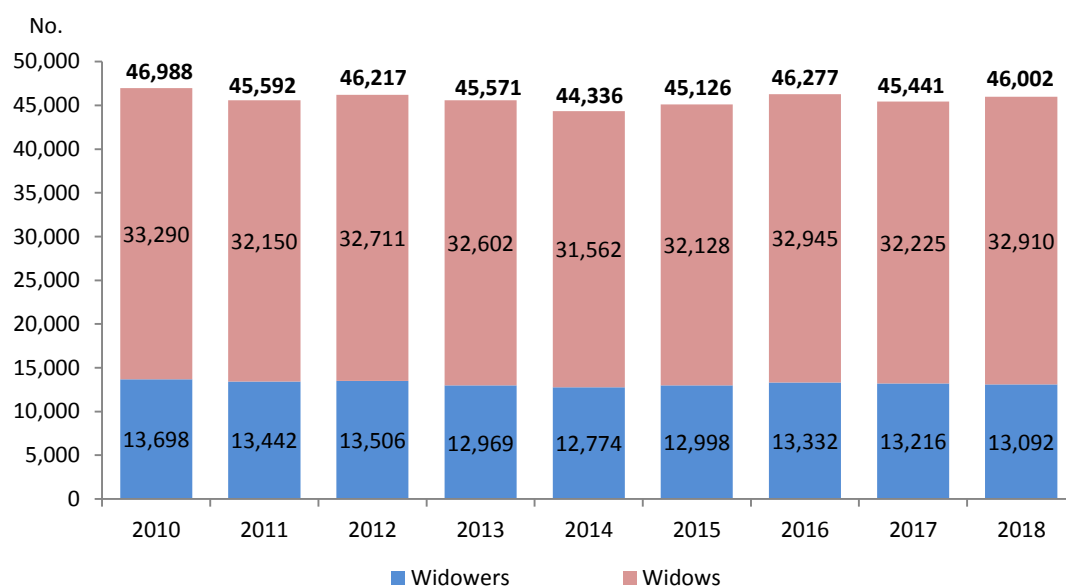


² Decree-Law No 324/2007 – As of 2007, marriages celebrated in a religious rite before the priest/minister of a church or religious community rooted in Portugal have civil effects, similarly to Catholic marriages.

More widows than widowers

In Portugal, in 2018, there were 46,002 dissolved marriages by death, of which resulted 13,092 widowers and 32,910 widows. Widowhood mainly affects women, in particular due to the higher female life expectancy.

Dissolved marriages by death and surviving spouses (No.), Portugal, 2010-2018



TECHNICAL NOTE

Statistics Portugal releases indicators on live births, deaths and marriages with information for 2018, broken down on a territorial basis for NUTS 1, 2 and 3, municipality and parish levels, based on the information registered in the Civil Register Offices until March 2019.

Data on live births, deaths and marriages are obtained from statistical operations aimed at the direct and exhaustive collection of information on these demographic events occurred in Portuguese territory using facts that are subject to compulsory civil registration (birth, death and marriage) in the "Sistema Integrado do Registo e Identificação Civil" (SIRIC).

In addition to administrative information obtained from Civil Register, Statistics Portugal also collects an additional set of variables identified as statistically pertinent and included in SIRIC.

Data are recorded and sent electronically, in compliance with the requirements set out by Statistics Portugal and laid down in liaison with the "Instituto de Registos e Notariado" (IRN) and the "Instituto de Gestão Financeira e Equipamentos da Justiça" (IGFEJ).

Definitions:

Death: The permanent disappearance of vital functions.

Infant mortality: Deaths of live-born children aged less than one year.

Infant mortality rate: The ratio of the number of deaths of children under one year of age during a specific period, usually a calendar year, to the number of live births in that period (usually expressed as the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births).

Live birth: This is the complete expulsion or extraction from the mother's body, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, of a product of fertilisation that, after separation, breathes or shows any other signs of life, such as a beating of the heart or umbilical cord or actual contraction of any muscle subject to voluntary movement, whether or not the umbilical cord has been severed and whether or not the placenta is retained.

Marriage: Contract signed by two persons that intend to start a family in full partnership and cohabitation according to legislation. Note: marriage can be held between persons from different or same sex.

Natural increase: The difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths during a given period, usually a calendar year.

Sex ratio at birth: Ratio between male and female live births in a certain period (usually expressed as 100 female live births).

Detailed methodological information available at:

www.ine.pt> Metadata system> Methodological documentation.

Detailed statistical information available at:

www.ine.pt> Statistical data> Population> Births and natality

www.ine.pt> Statistical data> Population> Mortality and life expectancy

www.ine.pt> Statistical data> Population> Marriage and divorce.